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Consolidation of Democracy in Post-Communist Europe and Political Transformation in Central East Europe

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Abstract: The consolidation of democracy in post-communist Europe and the political transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, always focuses on the fall of the communist regime and the democracies in transition. For the purposes of this paper it is worthwhile to turn our attention to the political developments after 1989 to assess the factors that have contributed to the degree of consolidation of democracy in these countries. Political transformations in CEE should be seen as part of changes where democracy is in social harmony and has an impact on the forces of transition. Since the end of the Cold War, the EU has become increasingly involved in operations to install democracy in post-communist countries. My focus is the CEE countries. To implement the full range of its missions, the EU must be able to implement its plans that bring democracy to post-communist states through aid programs. Thus, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the EU's focus has been on regions where assistance and assistance programs are needed. Political processes in all CEE countries show a strengthening of democracy with the best result achieved in Slovenia. Most democratic institutions are unstable but positive trends are evident. These tendencies tend from the tendency towards European values. Democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe must be seen as an integral part of the scale of far-reaching social transformations, which involve a fundamental change in these countries. Some scholars of democracy have paid attention to social factors that influence political outcomes. For Central and Eastern Europe, the ethnic composition of a society is considered important for democratic development.

Keywords: CEE; post-communist Europe; democratic institutions; Political instability; Cold War Field Humanities

1. Introduction

The fall of the communist regime in Central-Eastern Europe and the consolidation of democracy. The consolidation of democracy in post-communist Europe and the political transformation in Central-Eastern Europe increasingly focus on the fall of the communist regime and the democracies in transition. For the purposes of this study, we must turn our attention from the political developments after 1989 to assess the factors that have contributed to the degree of consolidation of democracy in these countries. Political transformations in CEE should be seen as part of changes where democracy is in social harmony and has an impact on the forces of transition. The object of analysis will be the collected data³initially for the 11 most advanced countries in transition for the period from 1990 to 2014. In connection with these we find that these countries have signed the association agreement in the European

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³ Desmond D., 'The Commission and Enlargement,' in *The Expanding European Union: Past, Present and Future*, Belgium", a study conducted in the context of the consolidation of democracy in CEE, 1998.

Union when the ruling governments have a pro-reform orientation, and when the electoral thresholds have been set to help party affiliation and stability ¹Duke shqyrtuar se si ndodhi tranzicioni nga komunizmi drejt konsolidimit demokratik, studiuesit janë mbështetur në një nga pretendimet teorike qëndrore se mënyra e tranzicionit ndikon në llojin e regjimit². The process of democratization after 1989 was marked by the creation of an abundance of political parties in Central and Eastern Europe. One of the most extreme cases, that of 1991, was the parliamentary elections in Poland. Political transformations in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe are in line with the liberalization of their economies. In this regard we must emphasize that there is a difference between the countries of Central - Eastern Europe and Latin American countries regarding the above. Thus although economic and political transitions in Latin America have been undertaken at the same time, these reforms have not fundamentally involved a transformation of ownership regimes, as has happened in Central and Eastern European countries. Moreover, the fact that most Central and Eastern European countries want membership in regional associations, and in particular the fact that they want membership in the European Union, has given a specific impetus to European transformations in the East. The simultaneity of democratization, privatization, regionalization and globalization forces us to consider the political changes in post-1989 Europe as an integral part of large-scale transformations, where domestic political developments are intertwined with economic, social and cultural changes, as well as structured by transnational forces. Specifically, this means that in order to find the determinants of democratic consolidation in the most advanced countries of Central and Eastern Europe, we must pay attention to internal economic, political, and social factors, as well as external transnational influences. Thus a very important factor is the economic development of society (Lipset, 1959, pp. 65-105) but he is not the only one.

The conditions of the economy, the study of the functional interdependence of modernization factors, such as urbanization, literacy and media are all factors that influence the nature of democratic political (Lipset, 1959, pp. 65-105) consolidation. Based on this theory we must affirm that modernization and industrial development bring more people to the city as well as lead to improved access to education. The modernization of society makes the social structure itself more complex and with this complexity expands the need to set the necessary democratic norms. For this reason, democracy can also be seen as one of the products of industrialization that bring together the perception of democratic norms and values, as well as lead to the emergence of intermediary organizations as the core of civil society. Economic development and all the factors related to modernization lead to the creation of a democratic, pluralistic, modern and dynamic society. Economic development runs parallel to democracy If we analyze the relationship between income inequality and democracy, we conclude that the long democratic regime reduces inequality, but also that the transition to democracy in an environment where inequality is high increases the pressure on democratic institutions and finally the establishment of an authoritarian regime. Capitalism can bring about a solution, aggravate the corruption of non-democratic countries, and lead to the establishment of a stable market economy by promoting the development of the middle class and thus the weakening of state control. However, this situation is not likely to cause democratization Regarding the important role of income in determining the stability of democracy, it should be noted that people in democracies that are consolidated and already at high levels of wealth do not conceive of the risk of their own well-being and thus do not want to risk their very existence. Of the democratic system. On the whole, the relationship between economic development and democracy can be quite complex. If the consolidation of democracy encourages industrialization and education, but on

¹ Përveç kësaj, nacionalizmi në vendet me popullsi të konsiderueshme të pakicave etnike e pengon konsolidimin demokratik.

² Rusia, Bjellorusia, Estonia, Lituania, Letonia, Moldavia, Ukraine

the other hand supports a one-party rule, then economic development is unlikely to promote democratic consolidation. Analyzing a sample which included 26 post-communist countries, over a period of more than 7-9 years, the authors¹ Kurtz and Barnes found little empirical support for the thesis that socio-economic development and economic liberalization have promoted political democratization in these countries. In short, based on the various findings regarding economic and democratic development, we can not expect a higher per capita GDP per level to lead to rapid democratic consolidation as there may not be a significant correlation in the relationship between these two variables. Democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe must be seen as an integral part of the scale of far-reaching social transformations, which involve a fundamental change in these countries. Some analysts of the post-communist transition argue for the opposite effect, in the sense that the establishment of democratic institutions helps post-socialist marketing (Muller, 1995, p. 966) Bartlett, for example, argues that the new democratic institutions in Hungary facilitated pro-market economic reforms because they isolated state agencies from opponents of economic reforms that operated at a disadvantage in the early post-communist period (Bartlett, 1997). Hungary's experience, thus, shows not only that political liberalization and economic transformation are compatible with each other, but also that the former promotes the latter (Bartlett, 1997) PBB per capita is commonly used as a measure of socio-economic development in the institutional structure of society. Therefore, to understand the creation of a new political order based on democracy, we must pay attention to the political forces that help to create this order, and the institutions that support it. The focus is on political legitimacy and political leadership. It is an undeniable fact that the commitment of the ruling governments to change the political, economic and social order of a country is of essential importance for democratic consolidation. For this reason, it is unlikely that the governments of post-communist countries, where the (unreformed) communist parties or national ruling parties will do much to promote democratic projects, precisely because of their political orientation. Based on this fact, democratic consolidation will be faster when the ruling elites are pro-democratic. Reforms where the ruling party is neither national nor communist have a very important role in its orientation. In addition to the political orientation of those in power, political institutions are important because they make the rules on which the political order is based. The structure of the democratic process is the electoral system (Giovanni, 1994, p. 123). In Central and Eastern Europe, electoral systems changed very frequently in the first decade after 1989, as an integral part of the process in which the elites and citizens of these countries were learning democracy. Theoretically, in these post-communist countries in reality, there is no real innovation regarding this occurrence. All countries chose either proportional systems, or a combination of a majority and proportional system, adapting to the tendency and preference in this region in terms of representing different and multiple political interests. . Democratic political approval and the rules found in Western democracies were relatively easy at first, but setting up these institutions requires timely time and the learning process. For this reason, governments have often changed these institutional rules, even repeatedly, as they have gained more democratic experience.

2. Materials and Methods

Nationalism can be seen as an integral part of consolidating the identity of a new state. Whatever the reasons, the fact is that after the end of the Communist Party rule in the world an increase of national movements and national feelings was witnessed in post-communist Europe. Nationalism has been used

¹ This is also suggested by the quantitative study we can find on this topic for post-communist Europe, conducted by Kurtz and Barnes (2002).

as a tool of political mobilization and support so that in a number of countries, the rhetoric and symbols with the greatest electoral appeal were national (Verdery, 1998). The nationalist idiom had orientated an important place in the cultural repertoires of actors and had given meaning to post-communist transformations (Brubaker, 1996). More specifically, Brubaker (Brubaker, 1996) distinguishes between the types of nationalism that have interacted to destabilize new or restructured states in post-1989 Europe. Theoretically, in these post-communist countries in reality, there is no real innovation regarding this occurrence. All countries chose either proportional systems, or a combination of a majority and proportional system, adapting to the tendency and preference in this region in terms of representing different and multiple political interests. Democratic political approval and the rules found in Western democracies were relatively easy at first, but setting up these institutions requires timely time and the learning process. For this reason, governments have often changed these institutional rules, even repeatedly, as they have gained more democratic experience.

2.1. Social Factors and Democracy:

Some scholars of democracy have paid attention to social factors that influence political outcomes. For Central and Eastern Europe, the ethnic composition of a society is considered important for democratic development. According to Smooha and Jare, ethnic and national divisions have posed a major obstacle to democratization. This is mainly due to the rise of nationalism in post-1989 Europe. Some observers suggest that the national question was revived after the fall of communism in these countries, which in the past have been suppressed by occupations in the region of imperial powers: the Habsburg Monarchy, the Ottoman Empire or Tsarist Russia, and after World War II. Have been suppressed under communist regimes (Carata, 1998) after the fall of communist regimes, post-communist states had to re-interpret their homeland and citizenship. The fall of Soviet rule can be understood as an impetus to regain state sovereignty from the people themselves and to gain national independence, at least in countries where communism is externally imposed and controlled by the Soviet Union. In the cases of Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia, the decline of state-socialism coincided with a dissolution of their federal agreements and the creation of several new states. In these circumstances, at the most basic level, the decisions had to do with identity, citizenship and territory, as well as the social and cultural aspect. An issue that deserves discussion is related to the electoral threshold. How high should it be in order to help democratic consolidation in post-communist countries? It is likely that the relationship between electoral thresholds and democratic consolidation is not linear. In this way, once a certain threshold is reached, the level of consolidation is not further raised even though the threshold continues to rise.

3. Results

Economic development, political commitment to democracy, the building of democratic institutions, and the ethnic composition of society provided the internal context for the consolidation of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989. In addition, this process is structured by the importance of external forces. In particular, the role of the European Union is important in promoting democratization. Shortly after the change of political power in Central and Eastern Europe, the communist states began to integrate into the union of European states. Marking the beginning of a country's path towards European Union integration, the agreements are concluded in a bilateral institutional framework, between EU member states and partner countries, covering trade issues related to political dialogue, legal harmonization and other areas. cooperation, including industry, environment. , transport and

customs. In particular, it was necessary to remove most tariffs and bring the regulatory framework in line with EU rules.

Post-communist countries have experienced an institutional divide with the fall of communist regimes. This situation led to the lack of strong democratic institutions in the country to advance the EU accession process. The power to negotiate with a powerful international actor and EU pressures left significant traces in the newly adopted institutional arrangements of these countries and the resulting political processes. Furthermore, the EU has included special assistance programs for Eastern European associate members with a specific focus on democratic development. The signing of EU Agreements with Central and Eastern European countries will have an impact on the democratic consolidation of these countries. EU pressure and monitoring a country's imminent opportunity to meet EU criteria should help a country stay on track for the democratic project. Therefore, we must see that, *ceteris paribus*, the sooner a country gives the signs of the EU Agreement, the faster its democratic consolidation. Association Agreements with the EU are ¹a first step on the path to full membership in the European Union. Most importantly, this process has caused the alignment with the *acquis communautaire*, the EU legislation, with the legislation of these countries

4. Discussions

The consolidation of democracy in post-communist Europe and the political transformation in Central and Eastern Europe always focus on the fall of the communist regime and the democracies in transition. For the purposes of this study, it is worthwhile to turn our attention to the political developments after 1989 to assess the factors that have contributed to the degree of consolidation of democracy in these countries. Political transformations in CEE should be seen as part of changes where democracy is in social harmony and has an impact on the forces of transition. Since the end of the Cold War, the EU has become increasingly involved in operations to install democracy in post-communist countries.

5. Conclusions

My focus is the CEE countries. To implement the full range of its missions, the EU must be able to implement its plans that bring democracy to post-communist states through aid programs. Thus, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the EU's focus has been on regions where assistance and assistance programs are needed. Prospects for social, economic and political development in CEE countries depend on the nature of their relations with the EU. Successful progress can be achieved by joining powerful political and economic structures such as the EU, but always meeting the criteria set by the EU to become part of it. This depends on the development of democracy, as democracy is the process of social, economic development, for each state. Such membership can positively affect the situation in the region, and is very important for strengthening democracies in these countries. The conditions of the economy, the study of the functional interdependence of modernization factors, such as urbanization, literacy and media are all factors that influence the nature of democratic political consolidation. Based on this theory we must affirm that modernization and industrial development bring more people to the city as well as lead to improved access to education. The modernization of society makes the social structure itself more complex and with this complexity expands the need to set the necessary democratic norms. For this reason, democracy can also be seen as one of the products of industrialization that bring together

¹ Or have been for the eight countries that joined the EU in 2004.

the perception of democratic norms and values, as well as lead to the emergence of intermediary organizations as the core of civil society.

Economic development and all the factors related to modernization lead to the creation of a democratic, pluralistic, modern and dynamic society. Economic development runs parallel to democracy.

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